



## Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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### **EPA: VALLEYCREST LANDFILL CLEANUP TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2001**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that cleanup of buried drums and contaminated materials at the Valleycrest Landfill Superfund site (Dayton, OH) will continue through 2001. EPA recently revised the estimated number of buried drums at the site to about 25,000—far greater than originally suspected. The cleanup is being funded by the Valleycrest Drum Removal Action Group (VDRAG), a group of potentially responsible parties.

A meeting to answer residents' questions about the project will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, at Stebbins High School, 1900 Harshman Rd., Riverside.

The 102-acre site, at 200 Valleycrest Dr. (between Brandt Pike and Valley St.), was a gravel pit, which accepted industrial and municipal waste from 1965 to 1975, and foundry sand, fly ash, and air filter baghouse dust from the mid-1970's to 1989.

EPA and Ohio EPA began investigating the site in 1986. Ground-water monitoring wells were installed on site and at the perimeter of the site. The site was added to the National

Priorities List in May 1994. In January 1995, Ohio EPA and several potentially responsible parties entered into an administrative order to investigate the site, including a ground-water investigation.

In September 1996, an underground fire occurred in the eastern portion of the landfill. Contractors hired by the potentially responsible parties uncovered and disposed of about 100 partially buried drums. By November 1997, additional investigation by Ohio EPA indicated the potential of thousands of buried drums. In May 1998, EPA conducted an extensive geophysical survey of the eastern and western portions of the site, which indicated a large volume of underground metal. The metallic material was recently confirmed to be drums.

In September 1998, a smaller group of potentially responsible parties—the VDRAG—entered into an administrative order on consent issued by EPA. The order required the VDRAG to:

- (1) Develop a site safety plan,
- (2) Excavate and properly dispose of all buried drums, containers, and contaminated soils and debris, and
- (3) Install a landfill gas control system.

In November 1998, drum removal under the administrative order by the VDRAG contractors began. So far, 3,700 drums have been excavated and 4,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils and debris from the western portion of the site have been sent for disposal. Initial analysis of the drums and soil and debris collected indicates elevated levels of trichloroethylene, benzene, lead, vinyl chloride, and PCB's.

Current work at the site includes excavation and sampling of drums and contaminated soil and debris, air monitoring during these activities, and the installation of a perimeter landfill gas control system. Separately, a comprehensive ground-water investigation continues under the direction of Ohio EPA. EPA is overseeing all work conducted by the VDRAG, in coordination with Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Dayton and Riverside fire departments.

For more information, call Leo Rosales, community involvement coordinator, EPA, at (800) 621-8431, or email: [rosales.leo@epa.gov](mailto:rosales.leo@epa.gov).

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